

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Joe Sestak voted this week in favor of \$6.9 billion for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

The law provides at least \$600 million annually for hiring new police officers and \$200 million to assist district attorneys in hiring prosecutors. It also provides an additional \$350 million for law enforcement technology.

“This is an important measure to reduce crime in our neighborhoods and – more importantly – to help prevent crime and terrorist activities,” said Congressman Sestak.

The funding in the COPS program can be widely used to create safer communities, from training officers in conflict resolution and anti-terrorism programs to school based partnerships such as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.

The COPS resolution also facilitates honorably discharged military personnel transitioning to community policing jobs. Grants for this program are targeted particularly on areas that have been affected by base closures.

“There are many fine people leaving our military who can have a positive impact on their communities as police personnel,” said Congressman Sestak. “As a veteran, I am proud to support this measure.”

Congressman Sestak supports first responders in their efforts to reduce and prevent crime. Earlier this month he rode along with a policeman from the Upper Darby Police Department on a Saturday night to best understand the issues they address. He met with the Delaware County Police Chiefs Executive Board and attended the award ceremony for a Ridley Park policeman shot in the line of duty. Congressman Sestak will continue to meet with representatives of the State Fraternal Order of Police and local lodges, and attend county Police Chiefs’ annual dinners.

“This issue – confronting violence – affects not only our streets but also our schools and

citizens,” said Congressman Sestak. “I will continue to work on this issue and am proud to have supported the COPS bill.”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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